



Town of Groton, Connecticut

Meeting Minutes

Town Council Committee of the Whole

45 Fort Hill Road
Groton, CT 06340-4394
Town Clerk 860-441-6640
Town Manager
860-441-6630

Mayor Patrice Granatosky, Councilor David Atwater, Councilor Conrad F. Heede, Councilor Rachael Franco, Councilor Rich Moravsik, Councilor Lian Obrey, Councilor Juliette Parker, Councilor Rita Schmidt, and Councilor Joe Zeppieri

Tuesday, February 20, 2018

6:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

SPECIAL MEETING - JOINT MEETING WITH CITY COUNCIL

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Granatosky called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Chairperson Granatosky, Councilor Atwater, Councilor Franco, Councilor Heede, Councilor Moravsik, Councilor Obrey, Councilor Parker, Councilor Schmidt and Councilor Zeppieri

Also present was Town Manager John Burt.

City of Groton: Mayor Keith Hedrick, Councilors Jamal Beckford, Rashaad Carter, Gweneviere Depot, Stephen Sheffield, and Jill Rusk

3. NEW BUSINESS

2018-0006 Joint Meeting with City of Groton (2018 Standing Referral)

Discussed

Mayor Granatosky explained that the Town Council and City Council have decided to meet on a quarterly basis to keep apprised each other's activities and foster better relations.

- Road Funding

Director of Finance Cindy Landry introduced Judith Blank of Day Pitney (bond counsel) and Bill Lindsay (financial advisor).

Ms. Blank explained the role of bond counsel. She distributed basic information on municipal bonding and the process that the Town must follow to authorize debt. Mr. Lindsay described his role as the Town's debt advisor. Mr. Lindsay distributed and reviewed Overview of Municipal Debt Issuance." Mayor Granatosky noted that this presentation relates to funding roads through a bond issue.

Mr. Lindsay responded to questions from Town and City Councilors.

- Tax Increment Financing

Director of Planning and Development Services Jon Reiner explained Tax Increment Financing and how to move the program forward in the Town and City. Mr. Reiner responded to questions from Councilors.

- Disposition of Empty Schools

Director of Planning and Development Services Jon Reiner described the marketing plan for the Mystic Education Center, Groton Heights, William Seely, Colonel Ledyard, Pleasant Valley, and two additional elementary schools in the future.

Mayor Hedrick noted his intent to send a letter to the Town Manager in late February/early March regarding returning Colonel Ledyard School to the Town.

Mayor Granatosky thanked City Councilors for attending the meeting.

The Committee of the Whole recessed at 7:48 p.m. and reconvened at 7:55 p.m.

Mayor Granatosky noted two additional items for consideration and asked for a motion to suspend the rules.

A motion was made by Councilor Obrey, seconded by Councilor Parker, pursuant to Town Council Rules Section 7)b) to suspend the Council's rules and allow the Council to add 'Public Art' to the agenda for discussion.

The motion carried unanimously.

2018-0059

Public Art

Discussed

Mayor Granatosky noted that she was contacted by a woman behind the Sub Trail regarding a public art project for the Town. Mayor Granatosky also received a letter from Bloomberg Philanthropies regarding a public art grant program for a larger project. Town staff would be required to write the Bloomberg Philanthropies grant. If staff is available, the idea will be brought forward for discussion. Another icon trail project would require approximately \$50,000 in seed money, which may not be possible in this budget year. The larger project would be an ongoing project to create a sense of plan as part of the TIF district.

A motion was made by Councilor Zeppieri, seconded by Councilor Moravsik, to find someone to write the Bloomberg grant and go ahead with the project.

Mayor Granatosky noted that the intent was not to go ahead with the project, but to find out if staff is available to write a grant. Discussion followed.

The motion failed by the following vote:

Votes: In Favor: 1 - Councilor Zeppieri
Opposed: 8 - Chairperson Granatosky, Councilor Atwater, Councilor Franco, Councilor Heede, Councilor Moravsik, Councilor Obrey, Councilor Parker and Councilor Schmidt

Discussed

The consensus of the Committee was to ask the Town Manager to determine staff or other resource availability to write the grant.

A motion was made by Councilor Obrey, seconded by Councilor Parker, pursuant to Town Council Rules Section 7)b) to suspend the Council's rules and allow the Council to consider an executive session to discuss the sale plans for Town-owned properties.

The motion carried unanimously.

2016-0184

Sale or Lease of Town Owned Excess Property

A motion was made by Councilor Atwater, seconded by Councilor Parker, that the members of the Town Council Committee of the Whole, Town manager John Burt, and Planning and Development Services Director Jon Reiner go into executive session at 8:12 p.m. pursuant to General Statutes Section 1-200 (6) (d) for the purpose of discussing the lease, sale or purchase of real estate concerning Town-owned properties.

The motion carried unanimously

Discussed

The executive session ended at 9:00 p.m.

4. **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Councilor Schmidt, seconded by Councilor Parker, to adjourn the meeting at 9:01 p.m.

The motion carried unanimously.